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Mineral King Battle Winds Up In Draw Between Krebs, Board

By JAMES FOLEY
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VISALIA — An overflow crowd anticipating a "battle of the century" between Tulare County supervisors and Rep. John Krebs over development of Mineral King bowl witnessed at best a draw.

Any of the animosity that had surfaced briefly since the Fresno Democrat announced his opposition to any large-scale recreational development by Walt Disney Productions was carefully hidden from public view by the ringwise politicians.

Earlier Board Chairman Robert Harrell had unleashed a scathing denunciation of Krebs' position following release of the US Forest Service's environmental impact report which was followed by Krebs' rebuttal and followed up by a board re-rebuttal.

At a special board meeting Friday Krebs responded to the board's most recent letter, ending by repeating his intention to introduce legislation which would, if Congress approves, put Mineral King into National Parks Service lands but with the provision of "limited development."

That development of Mineral King would benefit Tulare County through increased tax revenues and jobs.

Krebs countered by saying if development came to pass it would mean higher tax assessments for the small community of Three Rivers, and that as for jobs, "you can't lose 1,000 jobs which don't exist."

He also assured the supervisors he will seek their counsel and involvement before he introduces any legislation.

Crowds: Cheering Ford

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came to see his first president with a small American flag in hand. His father, J.R. Brown, said he formerly lived in Washington, D. C., and had seen the presidents "from (Franklin) Roosevelt on up."

The first presidential candidate he saw in person was William Jennings Bryan in 1899, recalled Spillman Viles, 85, as he waited for Ford to arrive.

Accompanying Viles were the three boys of Dr. Marvin C. Beil and Beil's nurse, Dorothy Shuck.

Beil is "a staunch Republican," explained Mrs. Shuck, but he could not go so she took the boys, Michael, 8, Tim, 7, and Andrew, 4.

The boys huddled together on the curb as they waited, Tim tucking his arms inside his sweater to fend off the chilling morning wind.

Michael sagely explained why everyone was present — "Because he's the president."

As Air Force One taxied up near the tower, the cameras began clicking like crickets.

As Ford emerged from the door of the gleaming jet, the crowd applauded and waved from its vantage point outside the gate.

Later, as the motorcade went by, cheers as well the waves.

The only negative reaction came

from a handful of members of the Fresno chapter of the Campaign for Democratic Foreign Policy.

A spokesman, who would not give his name, said the group was mainly against Ford, but also opposed CIA intervention in foreign countries and the exporting of American capital to other nations because it takes away domestic jobs.

They carried signs like: "President Ford is Nixon's Revenge" and "President Ford is a Puppet on Corporate Strings."

For Matthew Sitton, 4, seeing the President was only part of an eventful morning which included a trip to a dog show and seeing a fire.

His father, Ray, admitted, the fire probably made the biggest impression.

His mother, Carol, thought it was "really exciting and neat" to see the President.

Before departing, Ford shook hands with a line of California Highway Patrolmen and Fresno policemen who aided with his protection during the two and one-half hour visit.

CHP officer William Cheatham said Ford thanked the officers for their help and said, "I'd like to come back. I like it in California."

No wonder. The last time he was in Fresno, the President received a cowboy hat. This time he got a kiss.

Krebs said his intended legislation which will be introduced in about 10 days will ask the National Park Service to prepare plans which would consider the needs for recreational opportunities using public involvement. The study, he added, would take about two years.

Most of the rhetoric focused upon an access road. Krebs pointed out that neither the county, the state, Disney nor the federal government desires to upgrade the present, tortuous 25 miles of roadway at an estimated cost of \$18 to \$21 million.

Supervisors contend

'Earthquake'

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. (UPI) — The movie "Earthquake," billed as "you feel it as well as see it," opened at a local theater and some of the audience must have wondered about carrying reality too far.

While the movie was being shown, the western Kentucky town experienced real earthquake tremors.

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